

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action of July 31, 2002. This amendment and request for reconsideration is believed to be fully responsive thereto.

Claims 1-6 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 10-52195 (JP '195). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

However, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9 have been amended to further define the present invention over the prior art of record.

Regarding claim 1: JP '195 fails to disclose the moving hood and nut member brought into direct contact with each other, and the click mechanism formed by the radially inner portions of the moving hood and nut member proximate to the radially outer portions of the respective contact surfaces. In fact, the apparatus of JP '195 includes the thrust washer-like member 50 disposed between the hood 11 and the nut 12, and the click mechanism is formed between the thrust washer-like member 50 and the hood 11. Moreover, the click mechanism of JP '195 is exposed to external environment (see cavity 53 in the washer member 50 in the lower part of the Fig. 5). Thus, there is the possibility that dust, sand and the like may enter the click mechanism causing malfunction and damage of the reel mounting apparatus. Claim 1, as amended, on the contrary, recites the click mechanism unexposed to ambient atmosphere, thus, providing more reliable and durable operation of the apparatus.

Therefore, because the prior art fails to disclose the moving hood and nut member brought into direct contact with each other, the click mechanism formed by the radially inner portions of

the moving hood and nut member, and the click mechanism unexposed to external environment, claim 1, as amended, defines the invention over JP '195 and is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 2: JP '195 fails to disclose the nut member rotatably coupled to the moving hood, the moving hood and the nut member having the respective pressure contact surfaces which are forced to directly contact each other when the fishing-reel fitting leg portion is clamped between the first and second retaining portions by the clamping and pivotal operation of the nut member with respect to the seat body, and non-contact surfaces accommodating the click mechanism. Moreover, JP '195 fails to disclose the click mechanism unexposed to external environment. By contrast, the apparatus of JP '195 includes the thrust washer-like member 50 disposed between the hood 11 and the nut 12, and the click mechanism is formed between the thrust washer-like member 50 and the hood 11. Moreover, the click mechanism of JP '195 is exposed to external environment (see cavity 53 in the washer member 50 in the lower part of the Fig. 5). Therefore, claims 2 and 3, as amended, define the invention over JP '195, and are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 4 and 5: JP '195 fails to disclose the closed chamber defined between two of: 1) the main body, 2) the movable hood and 3) the nut member, and adapted to receive the click sound generation mechanism. By contrast, the apparatus of JP '195 includes the click mechanism disposed between the thrust washer-like member 50 and the hood 11 outside the nut member 42. Therefore, dust, sand and the like may enter into the click sound generation mechanism and cause the click sound generation mechanism to malfunction. Contrary to this, the present invention provides the click sound generation mechanism at inner side of the nut member, and therefore

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impurities (dust, sand and the like) are prevented from entering into the click mechanism, whereby the click mechanism is restrained from malfunctioning and being damaged (see page 18, lines 2-12 of the specification). Therefore, claims 4, 5, 6 and 8 define the invention over JP '195, and are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 9: JP '195 fails to disclose the click sound generation mechanism installed between the main body and the nut member. By contrast, the apparatus of JP '195 includes the click mechanism disposed between the thrust washer-like member 50 and the hood 11. Therefore, claim 9 defines the invention over JP '195 and is in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '195. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As argued above regarding the rejection of claim 4, JP '195 fails to disclose the closed chamber defined between two of the main body, the movable hood and the nut member, and adapted to receive the click sound generation mechanism. By contrast, the apparatus of JP '195 includes the click mechanism disposed between the thrust washer-like member 50 and the hood 11. The Examiner further concedes that JP '195 fails to disclose the coil spring, the protrusion and the recesses on other members than the pair of hoods and the nut member. Nevertheless, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to mount the coil spring and the protrusion on other members. However, JP '195 provides no motivation or suggestion to mount the coil spring and the protrusion on members other than the pair of hoods and the nut member. Therefore, the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper.

It is respectfully submitted that amended claims 1-9 define the invention over the prior art of

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record and are in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

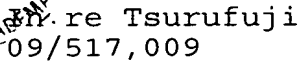
Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Matthew F. Johnston
Reg. No. 41,096

Liniak, Berenato, Longacre & White
Suite 240
6550 Rock Spring Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
(301) 896-0600



In re Application of: TSURUFUJI, T.

Group Art Unit: 3643

Examiner: ROWAN

Docket No.: 08203.340

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9 as follows:

a moving hood which is fitted to the outer periphery of the seat body and has a second retaining portion for receiving and retaining the other side of the fishing-reel fitting leg portion and is also movable along the longer direction of the seat body, and

a nut member which is rotatably coupled to the moving hood and screwed into the seat body and makes the moving hood move along the longer direction of the seat body, [characterized in that] wherein:

the moving hood and the nut member respectively have contact surfaces which are brought into direct contact with each other;

[the] radially outer [sites] portions [in the diametrical direction] of the respective contact surfaces are formed as pressure contact surfaces which are forced to contact each other when the fishing-reel fitting leg portion is clamped between the first and second retaining portions by the clamping and pivotal operation of the nut member with respect to the seat body; and [that]

[the] radially inner [sites] portions [in the diametrical direction] of the moving hood and nut member proximate to the radially outer portions of the respective contact surfaces are [formed into] forming a click mechanism for producing a click sound with an elastic body and an engaging portion with which the elastic body detachably engages [therewith] during the rotation of the nut member, wherein the click mechanism is unexposed to external environment.

2. (Amended) An apparatus for mounting a reel on a fishing rod, [which] said apparatus comprising:

a seat body having a first retaining portion which is provided to the fishing rod and used for receiving and retaining one side of a fishing-reel fitting leg portion,

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a moving hood which is fitted to the outer periphery of the seat body and has a second retaining portion for receiving and retaining the other side of the fishing-reel fitting leg portion and is also movable along the longer direction of the seat body, and

a nut member which is rotatably coupled to the moving hood and screwed into the seat body and makes the moving hood move along the longer direction of the seat body, characterized in that:

the moving hood and the nut member have [the] respective pressure contact surfaces which are forced to directly contact each other when the fishing-reel fitting leg portion is clamped between the first and second retaining portions by the clamping and pivotal operation of the nut member with respect to the seat body, and non-contact surfaces to which the contact force is not applied; and that

each of the non-contact surfaces includes an elastic body and an engaging portion from which the elastic body is detachable and an unexposed click mechanism for producing a click sound when the nut member is rotated, wherein the click mechanism is unexposed to external environment.

4. (Amended) A reel seat comprising:

a main body;

a pair of hoods, at least one of said hoods is movable relative to said main body;

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a nut member, threadingly engaged with said main body, for moving said movable hood relative to said main body by rotation and associated movement of said nut member relative to said main body;

a closed chamber defined between two of said main body, said movable hood and said nut member; and

a click sound generation mechanism[,] installed inside said nut member within said closed chamber[,]for generating click sound using relative movement between said two of said main body, said movable hood and said nut member,

wherein said click sound generation mechanism includes recesses, a coiled spring; a protrusion on an end of said coiled spring and engageable with one of said recesses.

5. (Amended) A reel seat comprising:

a main body;

a pair of hoods, at least one of said hoods *is* movable relative to said main body;

a nut member, threadingly engaged with said main body, for moving said movable hood relative to said main body by rotation and associated movement of said nut member relative to said main body;

a closed chamber defined between two of said main body, said movable hood and said nut member; and

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a click sound generation mechanism[,] installed inside said nut member within said closed chamber[,] for generating click sound using relative movement between said two of said main body, said movable hood and said nut member,

wherein said closed chamber is axially located between said two of said main body, said movable hood and said nut member.

9. (Amended) A reel seat comprising:

a main body;

a pair of hoods, at least one of said hoods is movable relative to said main body;

a nut member, threadingly engaged with said main body, for moving said movable hood relative to said main body by rotation and associated movement of said nut member relative to said main body by rotation and associated movement of said nut member relative to said main body; and

a click sound generation mechanism[,] installed between the main body and the nut member[,] for generating click sound using relative movement between the main body and the nut member,

wherein said click sound generation mechanism includes recesses, a coiled spring, and a protrusion on an end of said coiled spring and engageable with one of said recesses which are arranged in an axial direction of the main body.